



Oneida Health
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March 23, 2020

Dear Fellow Employee,

There are many initiatives being investigated that will help with our response to this pandemic. Among them is a rapid testing process that will provide results within 45 minutes as well as treatment protocols using already available medication to lessen the severity of COVID-19. The rapid manufacturing of PPE is also occurring. All this is wonderful news that will help us in this war against an enemy that we cannot see.

As you may be aware, we had our first COVID-19 positive patient. This person was seen in our ED, properly isolated, tested and sent home. This person will be isolated at home for the time being. There are no other positives in our hospital or ECF. Tests in Madison County are conducted by our Network, Community Memorial Hospital as well as the County Department of Health. So when you read/hear about positive cases, they could have come from any of these locations as well for individuals who have chosen to be tested at locations outside of Madison County. Again, 0 positive cases in our hospital and ECF at this time.

Please note the following updates:

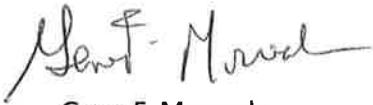
1. There will be no elective surgical or endoscopy cases performed at OHC after this Tuesday. Urgent or emergent procedures will still be provided. Determination of urgent/emergent status will be made by the attending surgeon in coordination with our Anesthesiologist and OR Leadership.
2. Screening of all employees coming to work will continue with additional oversight. You will receive a separate email later today that will outline the more formal employee screening process. This is already in place in our ECF and has worked very well. Implementing this in the ACF and our practices will allow us to better protect each other and our patients from staff who may be ill, not with just COVID-19, but also other prevalent issues such as the flu.
3. We are continuing to develop a drive through option for testing for COVID-19. We are looking at current CDC requirements for testing to ensure that we set this up in accordance with those guidelines. CDC updated information is asking for those who think they have COVID-19 to stay home and self-quarantine. Contact primary care provider by phone or telemedicine with questions. Only individuals who are severely ill and require ED care and possible admission should present to hospitals to be tested and cared for. We are continuing to evaluate this protocol with our clinical providers to develop how to approach testing of community members in line with current CDC guidelines.

4. We are continuing to seek legal guidance on Federal/State acts regarding sick time, Family Leave, etc. I believe we will have a clearer response on the impact of these acts on our workforce soon. At that time, we will prepare an information sheet for each employee.
5. Attached to this email is a communication titled "Caring for Yourself during the Pandemic." Please make available in your respective work areas. In the attached are links you can go on to receive additional support. At the end of the document are key agencies and their contact information. Please avail yourself of this throughout this crisis.

More information in the form of an update will be provided later today as we continue to receive clarification of a multitude of information being shared with us. My promise is not to withhold any information that will help you all through the pandemic. Your safety and the safety of our patients/residents is our leadership team's utmost concern.

Thank you for being here to help with the ongoing care needs of our residents and patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene F. Morreale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gene F. Morreale
President and CEO